

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-10 and 12-17 are pending in the above-identified application.

The claims for this application have been subjected to a Unity of Invention Requirement as follows:

Group I -- Claims 1, 2, 4 and 6 directed to a copolymer product; and

Group II -- Claims 7-10 and 12-17 directed to a process for making the copolymer product.

The Unity of Invention Requirement indicates at page 2 that the claims of Groups I and II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because they lack the same or corresponding special technical features under PCT Rule 13.2. This Requirement is respectfully traversed.

Before discussing the reasons for traversal, Applicants hereby elect the claims of Group I, i.e. claims 1, 2, 4 and 6, with traverse.

It is submitted that the process claims of Group II produce the product recited in the product claims of Group I. This is evident from a review of the specification and claims. It is further submitted that unity of invention exists since the present situation corresponds to Example 1 in the Administrative Instructions under the PCT, Annex B, part 2 at page AI-57 of the M.P.E.P., (August 2001), a copy of which is attached. Note that

Example 1 indicates that a first claim reciting a method of making a chemical substance or a product is examined together with another claim reciting the substance or product. Consequently, it is requested that the Requirement be withdrawn in the present application.

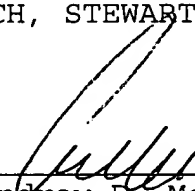
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number of the listed below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Version Showing Marked-up Changes
Copy of AI-57 of M.P.E.P.

Version Showing Marked-up Changes

10. The method according to claim 7 or 8, wherein the
fluorine-containing copolymer is stabilized in a wet state after
said copolymer is washed with water until pH of the wash liquor
becomes 4 or less.

[ANNEX B, CONTINUED]

PART 2

EXAMPLES CONCERNING UNITY OF INVENTION

The application of the principles of unity of invention is illustrated by the following examples for guidance in particular cases.

I. CLAIMS IN DIFFERENT CATEGORIES

Example 1

Claim 1: A method of manufacturing chemical substance X.

Claim 2: Substance X.

Claim 3: The use of substance X as an insecticide.

Unity exists between claims 1, 2 and 3. The special technical feature common to all the claims is substance X.

Example 2

Claim 1: A process of manufacture comprising steps A and B.

Claim 2: Apparatus specifically designed for carrying out step A.

Claim 3: Apparatus specifically designed for carrying out step B.

Unity exists between claims 1 and 2 or between claims 1 and 3. There is no unity between claims 2 and 3 since there exists no common special technical feature between the two claims.

Example 3

Claim 1: A process for painting an article in which the paint contains a new rust inhibiting substance X including the steps of atomizing the paint using compressed air, electrostatically charging the atomized paint using a novel electrode arrangement A and directing the paint to the article.

Claim 2: A paint containing substance X.

Claim 3: An apparatus including electrode arrangement A.

Unity exists between claims 1 and 2 where the common special technical feature is the paint containing substance X or between claims 1 and 3 where the common special technical feature is the electrode arrangement A.

However, unity is lacking between claims 2 and 3 since there exists no common special technical feature between them.

Example 4

Claim 1: Use of a family of compounds X as insecticides.

Claim 2: Compound X₁ belonging to family X.

Provided X₁ has the insecticidal activity and the special technical feature in claim 1 is the insecticidal use, unity is present.